

Message of the Week

June 11-17, 2003

Presented by Rep. Mike Pence (R-IN)

“Republicans will continue to fight for tax relief for Americans who pay taxes.”

- Democrats have passionately argued that people who owe **no** federal income tax should get a federal income tax **refund** for having a child. *[Current law will make this a reality in 2005; Democrats want to accelerate it to 2003.]*
- This is like walking into a store for the first time and demanding a refund for items you haven’t even purchased.
- Democrats respond that people who owe no federal income tax still pay *other* federal taxes (like the gas tax) and therefore do deserve an *income* tax “refund.” But why does buying a gallon of gas mean someone should get an income tax “refund” for having a child?
- That would be like demanding a refund for a shirt still hanging on the rack in a store just because last week you bought a pair of pants at that same store.
- Republicans DO care about giving relief to people who pay the gas tax—by cutting the gas tax. In fact, Republicans believe that tax relief should go only to Americans who pay the taxes being relieved. That’s why we promoted and passed an economic growth package that provided tax relief to **all** Americans—including poor Americans.
- If Democrats were as passionate about cutting taxes for people who actually pay the taxes being cut, as they are about sending “refund” checks to people who do **not** pay the taxes being “refunded,” Americans could be given much more control over their own money.
- But Democrats don’t want people to keep more of their own money. They want some people to get more of other people’s money. And they propose this redistribution of wealth regardless of its effects on the budget deficit—which they cited as the reason for voting against the tax cut package last month.
- Republicans want tax relief, which has a proven record of creating jobs and sustained economic growth. Democrats want welfare.